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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, today, open the minds of our lawmakers, that they may welcome new insights and knowledge You wish to give them. Remind them of Your admonition that they should love You with all their minds.

Lord, give them the wisdom to refuse to cling so tightly to the past that they limit what You can do for them in the future. Give them the courage to change their minds when that is needed.

Lord, may they be tolerant to the thoughts of others and open to the truth wherever they may find it.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2118

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2118) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for increased investment in clean energy, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar under rule XIV, I object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection has been heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on today's, tomorrow's, and this week's business, the Senate will soon vote on two more nominees to join President Biden's administration: Christopher Fonzone to serve as general counsel for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and Kiran Ahuja to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management. Those votes will happen tonight and tomorrow.

The discussions on the bipartisan infrastructure bill and a budget reconciliation bill are both moving forward and will continue throughout the week.

But tomorrow—tomorrow—the Senate will also take a crucial vote on whether to start debate on major voting rights legislation.

I want to say that again. Tomorrow, the Senate will take a vote on whether to start debate on legislation to pro-

tect Americans' voting rights. It is not a vote on any particular policy. It is not a vote on this bill or that bill. It is a vote on whether the Senate should simply debate the issue about voting rights—the crucial issue of voting rights in this country.

Now, by all rights, we shouldn't have to debate voting rights on the floor of the U.S. Senate. These rights should be sacrosanct, but the events of the last few months compel us to have this debate now.

Why is there such urgency? Because of what has been happening in Republican legislature after legislature in the last several months. Voting rights—the most fundamental right of a democracy, the right that men and women have died for in wartime and in peacetime, the right by which all other rights are secured—are under assault—under assault from one end of the country to the other.

In the wake of the 2020 election, Donald Trump told a lie—a Big Lie—that the election was stolen from him by voter fraud. There was no evidence for this. His own administration concluded that the 2020 election was one of the safest in history. His lawyers were laughed out of courts, many by Republican judges—some by judges he appointed, that Trump appointed. But he kept saying it anyway. He lied over and over and over again. Donald Trump lied over and over and over again, poisoning our democracy, lighting a fire beneath Republican State legislatures, which immediately launched the most sweeping voter suppression effort in years.

Just a note, how despicable a man is Donald Trump. He lost an election legitimately. He can't face that—that it was his failure. And he creates a lie—a Big Lie—and wins so many people over to that lie with the help of news media and other news commentators who are lying, as well, and they know it.

Again, Donald Trump, with his despicable lies, has lit a fire beneath Republican State legislatures, and they

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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